

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(currently amended)** ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt, ~~consisting~~
comprising of:

~~two first and second~~ half-junctions, ~~made from vulcanised rubber or a plastic~~
~~material,~~ each solidly attached ~~respectively~~ attachable to one end of the conveyor belt, each
of the half-junctions having a generally flat shape and a maximum thickness that is equal to
or slightly less than that of the end of the conveyor belt ~~with which it is solidly attached,~~ and
having substantially matching shapes that allow ~~them~~ the half-junctions to be interlinked such
as to form a junction with a thickness that is at most equal to that of the ends of the conveyor
belt, ~~said two~~ the half-junctions ~~comprising~~ including a flexible core, ~~textile or otherwise,~~ and
being respectively equipped with cup inserts and bush inserts allowing the passage of an
assembly means, ~~of the rod type, arranged perpendicularly to the general plane of the~~
~~junction, characterised~~ characterized in that,

- the ~~solid~~ attachment of each of the ~~two~~ half-junctions ~~[(3,4)]~~ with the
corresponding conveyor belt end is provided, ~~on the one hand,~~ by the flexible cores (6),
~~textile or otherwise, of the corresponding ends (1 or 1') of the conveyor belt,~~ each of the
cores ~~[(6)]~~ extending towards the inside of each half-junction ~~(3 or 4)~~ forming a fold ~~[(8)]~~
of the side of ~~[(the)]~~ at a free edge, ~~or front edge~~ of each of the half-junctions ~~(3 or 4)~~ next to
~~said free edge, the male half-junctions (3)~~

the first half-junction comprising ~~two levels,~~ a top level ~~[(22)]~~ and a bottom level
~~[(23)],~~ the top level ~~[(22)]~~ containing the ~~folded core~~ fold and the bottom level ~~(23) only~~
~~comprising the constituent material,~~ in which ~~[(the)]~~ a front edge ~~[(16')]~~ of the bottom level

as substantially the same shape as ~~[[the]]~~ a front edge ~~[[((16))]]~~ of the top level ~~[[((22))]]~~, but is shifted towards the rear at least by the distance that separates the front edge ~~[[((16))]]~~ of the top level from the cup inserts ~~[[((13))]]~~ that are the furthest from the front edge ~~[[((16))]]~~ of the top level, and

the ~~female half-junctions (4)~~ second half-junction comprising ~~two levels~~, a top level ~~(20) that only comprises the constituent material and in which the shape of~~ ~~[[the]]~~ a front edge ~~[[((16" '))]]~~ of the top level matches that of the front edge ~~[[((16))]]~~ of the matching ~~male half-junctions~~ first half-junction, and a bottom level ~~[[((21))]]~~ containing the ~~folded core (6, 7) fold~~ and the bush inserts ~~[[((14))]]~~, in which the front edge ~~[[((16"'))]]~~ of the bottom level is shifted towards the front in relation to the front edge ~~[[((16" '))]]~~ of the top level ~~[[((20))]]~~, so that the bush inserts align with the cup inserts its shape matching that of the front edge of the bottom level ~~[[((23))]]~~ of the ~~male~~ first half-junction, and

-the solid attachment of the ~~male (3) and female (4)~~ first and second half-junctions with each other ~~[[is]]~~ being provided by ~~[[rod]]~~ fasteners, ~~such as rivets or studs, but preferably by means of screws (15), in which~~ ~~[[the]]~~ a head thereof rests against ~~[[the]]~~ a bottom of the respective cup inserts ~~[[((13))]]~~ and in which ~~the~~ a thread thereof is screwed into the relevant respective bush inserts ~~[[((14))]]~~, ~~which are threaded on the inside, or smooth in the case that self-tapping screws are used, with neither the heads of the screws (15) fasteners nor their opposite ends sticking out~~ extending beyond the outside surfaces of the half-junctions at the points where the ~~screws~~ fasteners are inserted.

2. **(currently amended)** ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ends of the conveyor belt ~~[[((1, 1'))]]~~ manufactured at the same time as the ~~male (3) and female (4)~~ half-junctions are still separate from ~~[[a]]~~ the

conveyor belt during the manufacturing stage of the half-junctions.

3. (**currently amended**) ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bush inserts $[(14)]$ are made in the ~~female~~ second half-junctions $[(4)]$ so that the bush inserts $[(14'')]$ drives the edges of the hole of the two sections of the core $[(6, 7)]$ that surround the bush inserts perpendicularly in the general plane of these layers and are therefore solidly attached to the ~~female~~ second half-junction $[(4)]$ in two perpendicular planes by $[(the)]$ a constituent material and the sections of the core that surround them.

4. (**currently amended**) ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bush inserts comprise a section forming a flat flange $[(14')]$ that is ~~solidly~~ attached to the actual bush section and arranged perpendicularly to the end of the bush $[(14'')]$ that is the closest to the outside surface of the bottom level $[(21)]$ of the matching ~~female~~ second half-junction $[(4)]$, only being separated from this surface by a thin layer of $[(the)]$ a constituent material, these flanges extending in a plane that is parallel to the general plane of the half-junction and being solidly attached to the constituent material that surrounds them.

5. (**currently amended**) ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cup inserts $[(13)]$ are made in the ~~male~~ first half-junctions $[(3)]$ so that the cup rests closely, by its sections that border the central hole, against the edges of the hole made in two sections of the core $[(6, 7)]$, with which it is ~~solidly~~ attached by the surrounding constituent material.

6. **(currently amended)** ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the front edge ~~[[(16)]]~~ of the top level ~~[[(22)]]~~ of the ~~male first~~ half-junction ~~consists of~~ has a succession of front edge sections ~~(16pp)~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the ~~male first~~ half-junction, separated from each other in the longitudinal direction and front edge sections that extend longitudinally, each of these front edge sections ~~(16pp)~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction being connected to the closest front edge ~~section or~~ sections that ~~is/are~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction shifted towards the rear by front edge sections ~~(16p1)~~ that are parallel to the longitudinal direction, thus forming a broken line, the shapes of the front edge of the bottom level ~~[[(23)]]~~ of the ~~male first~~ half-junction ~~[[(3)]]~~, of the front edge of the top level ~~[[(20)]]~~ of the ~~female second~~ half-junction ~~[[(4)]]~~ and of the front edge of the bottom level ~~[[(22)]]~~ of the ~~female second~~ half-junction ~~[[(4)]]~~ resulting, as defined above, from the shape of the front edge of the top level ~~[[(22)]]~~ of the ~~male first~~ half-junction ~~[[(3)]]~~, the core ~~[[(6)]]~~ being slit longitudinally over the distances required to form shifted folds and the shifted folded sections corresponding to the shifted front edge sections.

7. **(currently amended)** ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the front edge of the ~~male first~~ half-junction ~~(3)~~, ~~in an outline sketch,~~ is in the shape of a broken line arranged overall obliquely across the half-junction.

8. **(currently amended)** ~~Junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the front edge of the ~~male first~~ half-junction ~~[[(3)]]~~, in an outline sketch, is in the shape of a broken line arranged in an overall V shape, the point pointing towards the front.

9. (currently amended) ~~Junction A junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the front edge of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction $[(3)]$ alternately comprises first front edge sections ~~(16pp)~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and second front edge sections ~~(16pp)~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction shifted towards the rear in relation to the first front edge sections ~~(16pp)~~.

10. (currently amended) ~~Junction A junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the claims from 1 to 5, characterised in that~~ the front edge of the top level $[(22)]$ of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction $[(3)]$ is in the shape of a V with its arms forming straight lines, the point of the V pointing towards the front, the shapes of the front edge of the bottom level $[(23)]$ of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction $[(3)]$, of the front edge of the top level $[(20)]$ of the ~~female second~~ female second half-junction $[(4)]$ and of the front edge of the bottom level $[(23)]$ of the ~~female second~~ female second half-junction $[(4)]$ resulting from the shape of the front edge of the top level of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction ~~as defined in the parent claim~~, and the folds of the core $[(6)]$ being arranged obliquely in relation to the longitudinal direction, following the arms of the V of the shape of the front edges towards the rear.

11. (currently amended) ~~Junction A junction~~ A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the claims from 1 to 5, characterised in that~~ the front edge of the top level $[(22)]$ of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction $[(3)]$ is ~~overall~~ substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, with the exception of one or more V-shaped indentations ~~(19, 19')~~, the point of the V pointing towards the rear, which can also be in the shape of a concave curve, the core sections ~~(6, 7)~~ being indented also, following the shape towards the rear of the indentations of the front edges of the top level $[(22)]$ of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction $[(3)]$, the shapes of the front edges of the bottom level $[(23)]$ of the ~~male first~~ male first half-junction $[(3)]$

and of the top level $[(20)]$ and of the bottom level $[(21)]$ of the ~~female~~ second half-junction $[(4)]$ resulting from the shape of the front edge of the top level $[(22)]$ of the ~~male~~ first half-junction (3) ~~as defined in the parent claim~~, and the core sections (6 and 7) of the bottom level $[(21)]$ of the ~~female~~ second half-junction $[(4)]$ being indented following the shape of the indentations of the front edge of this bottom level $[(21)]$ of the ~~female~~ second half-junction $[(4)]$ towards the rear.

12. (new) A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, wherein the first and second half-junctions are formed of vulcanized rubber or plastic.

13. (new) A junction for a conveyor belt according to claim 1, wherein the fasteners may be one of a screw, rivet, or stud.